

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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P 080145Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1853
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AF, UNGA/SSOD

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE
IN NEW YORK, JUNE 5

REF: KABUL 4572

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF
AFGHANISTAN HAFIZULLAH AMIN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON JUNE 5 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM CORRESPONDENTS ON
THE APRIL 22 REVOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
PARTY.

2. THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS WERE TAKEN FROM A UNITED
NATIONS INTERNAL DOCUMENT:

A. THE NATURE OF THE REVOLUTION:

-- ON THE EFFECT OF THE REVOLUTION ON FUTURE
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BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, MR. AMIN
SAID AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD
BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT
GIVEN. "ANY COUNTRY WHICH GIVES MORE SUPPORT TO
OUR REVOLUTION, WE WILL HAVE MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS
WITH."

-- ON THE NATURE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF AFGHANISTAN, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT WAS NOT A MILITARY GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH MILITARY REGULATIONS WERE IN EFFECT. AFGHANISTAN WAS DIRECTED "THROUGH A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL". THE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE NOT FROM THE MILITARY. THEY WERE CIVILIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY. IT WAS EXPECTED THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE AN ELECTION, ALTHOUGH HE SAID LATER THIS WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THINGS DEVELOPED IN AFGHANISTAN. "IT IS OUR INTENTION TO ELECT OUR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THROUGH ELECTIONS."

-- ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE MORE THAN ONE PARTY, HE SAID, "WE WILL SEE LATER. IT DEPENDS ON HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS." THREE MAIN ORGANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNING. ONE WAS THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE SECOND WAS THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE THIRD WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN. HOWEVER, POWER WAS ACTUALLY CENTERED IN THE PARTY.

-- ON LAND PROGRAMS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TO THE PEOPLE, AMIN SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AGRARIAN REFORM. IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT LAND REFORM WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY COOPERATIVES. INDUSTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE PAST HAD BEEN MAINLY RUN BY THE STATE BUT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO INCREASE THE STATE'S SHARE IN HEAVY INDUSTRY.

-- FURTHER ON THE NATURE OF THE REVOLUTION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WAS SORRY THE WORD COUP HAD BEEN USED. "IT WAS NOT A COUP; IT WAS A REVOLUTION." "IT STARTED BY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, IT STARTED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY; IT WAS PLANNED, ORGANIZED, AND STARTED FACE TO FACE WITH THE GOVERNMENT."

B. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS:

-- AFGHANISTAN HAD HAD A LONG, HISTORICAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USSR. SHARED A BORDER OF MORE THAN 2,000 KILOMETERS AND THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE RELATIONSHIP WAS "UNIQUE" AND EXEMPLIFIED "THEIR VERY GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD".

-- RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE FRIENDLY AND HE HOPED THESE WOULD DEVELOP ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

-- AFGHANISTAN WAS NOT A SATELLITE OF THE
SOVIET UNION.

-- ONLY CO-NTRY WITH WHICH AFGHANISTAN HAD
A POLITICAL PROBLEM WAS PAKISTAN AND HE HOPED THIS COULD
BE RESOLVED IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS "THROUGH PEACEFUL
NEGOTIATIONS".

-- ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., AMIN SAID
FRIENDLY RELATIONS HAD BEEN MAINTAINED. "IT DEPENDS
ON THE U.S. IF SHE WANTS TO KEEP FRIENDLY RELATIONS

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WITH US, WE ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TOO." AMIN COMMENTED
THAT HE HAD SEEN THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE AT
THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. THERE HAD BEEN EXCHANGES OF
INFORMATION BUT NO AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN REACHED OTHER
THEN TO CONTINUE FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

-- ON AID FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE
SOVIET UNION, AMIN SAID ASSISTANCE FROM BOTH SIDES HAD
NOT BEEN EQUAL. AFGHANISTAN HAD RECEIVED MUCH MORE
ASSISTANCE FROM THE USSR. AFGHANISTAN WOULD ACCEPT
UNCONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM ANY COUNTRY.
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